

PATENT  
Response to Office Action  
09/988,777  
02880/351

3738

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Pertti TORMALA *et al.*  
Serial No. 09/988,777  
Filed: October 20, 2001  
For: JOINT PROSTHESIS  
Group Art Unit: 3738  
Examiner: Hieu Phan

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**JUN 23 2004**

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111**

SIR:

In response to the Office Action of December 18, 2003, Applicants hereby petition for a three-month extension of time, extending the period of response up to and including June 18, 2004. The Office is authorized to charge Kenyon & Kenyon's Deposit Account No. 11-0600 for the extension of time fee.

Applicants submit the following amendments for entry and respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

[REDACTED]

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Furthermore, the drawings enable one skilled in the art to make and use a joint prosthesis with one connector. Specifically, FIG. 1 depicts the structural relationship of two connectors 4' and 4" relative to a joint spacer 3 and to two bones 1 and 2. If only a single connector is desired, it is would be understood by one skilled in the art to simply removed one of connectors 4' and 4". No undo experimentation is needed to use the joint prosthesis as recited in claims 1 and 23 with only one connector. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 23 (and all claims that depend therefrom) are enabled and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.


### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative to discuss any issue that would expedite allowance of the subject application.

Any fees for extension(s) of time or additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such required fees or to credit any overpayment to Kenyon & Kenyon's Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,  
KENYON & KENYON

Dated: June 15 2004

By:   
Zeba Ali  
(Reg. No. 51,392)

1500 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Tel: (202) 220-4200  
Fax: (202) 220-4201  
495884